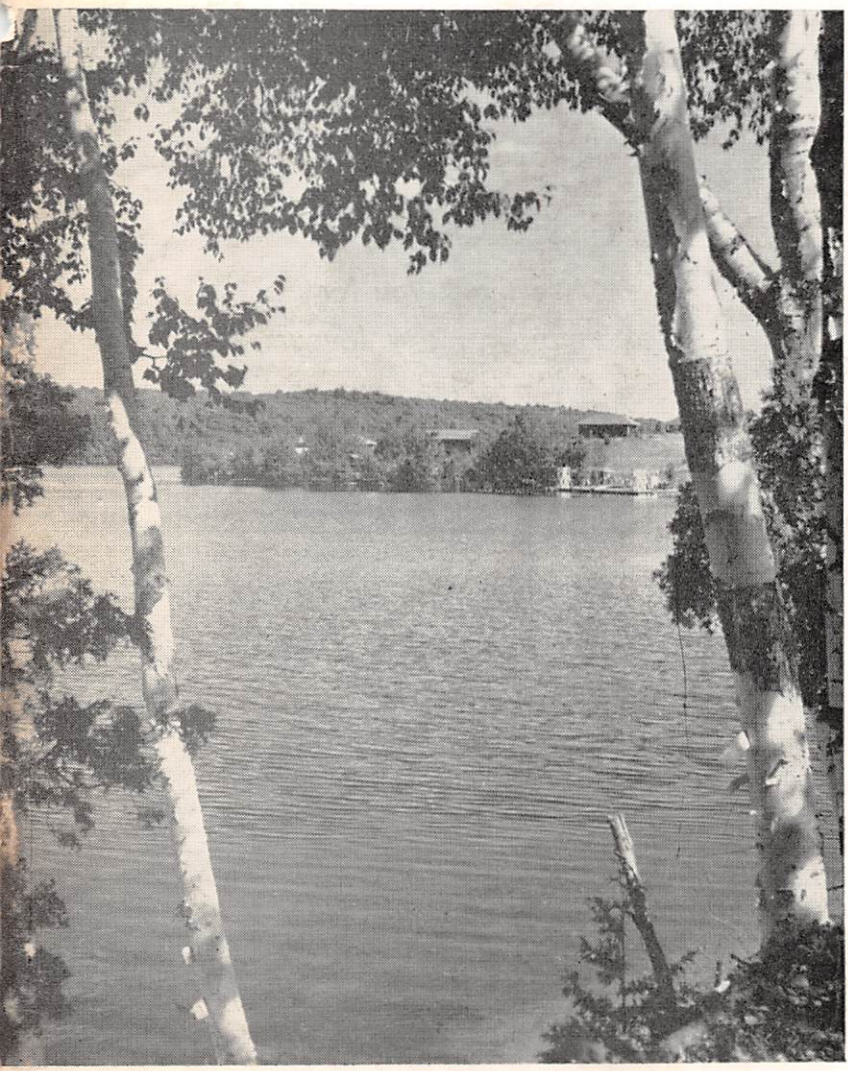
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CANADIAN CAMPING ASSOCIATION

CANADIAN CAMPING



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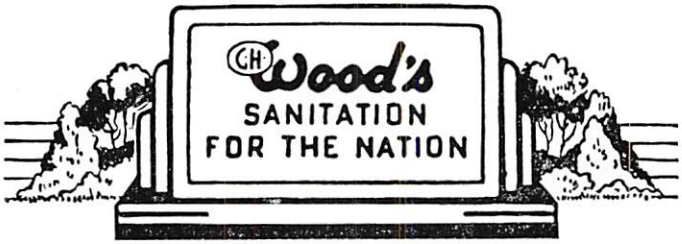

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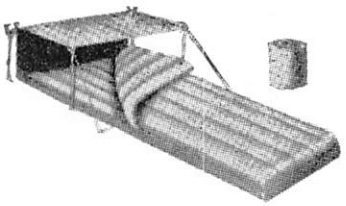

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CANADIAN CAMPING

Vol. 12 DECEMBER, 1959 No. 1

CONTENTS

Canoe Trip Counsellors	Walter D. Mingie	10
From the Nurse's Viewpoint	Mrs. G. Brigden	12
Selecting a Camp Site	Barry G. Lowes	16
For Food Handlers	Ruth Carruthers	20
Duel Issues		22
For Your Camp Library	Joyce Bertram	24
Nature Tools	Bettye Breeser	30
Safe Water Skiing	Harold M. Gore	34
Will These Interest Your Campers?	Toner	38
Sermons Under the Sun		41

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"CANADIAN CAMPING" IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR BY THE CANADIAN CAMPING MAGAZINE CO. FOR THE CANADIAN CAMPING ASSOCIATION AT 170 BLOOR ST. WEST, TORONTO, ONTARIO. SUBSCRIPTION PRICES: MEMBERSHIP IN THE CANADIAN CAMPING ASSOCIATION INCLUDES CANADIAN CAMPING: TO NON-MEMBERS, 75 CENTS PER COPY, $2.75 PER YEAR, $8.00 FOR THREE YEARS. AUTHORIZED AS SECOND CLASS MAIL, POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, OTTAWA, ONT.

CANOE TRIP COUNSELLORS: TAKE NOTE!

Walter D. Mingie,

Director of Canoe Trips, Camp Nominingue, Que.

At Camp Nominingue every counsellor and Junior counsellor is a Trip Counsellor. Most counsellors will take out two canoe trips from three to eight days in length, during a season. We send out parties of two counsellors and five campers in two canoes, pairing up a new counsellor with one who has had previous canoe trip experience.

During the advance party and during the first few days of camp each season, we have an in-service training program for counsellors. Part of this time is spent in preparing counsellors to take out canoe trips. We realize that the experience gained on a canoe trip is invaluable and with each trip the counsellor becomes a better trip leader. However, we feel we would be remiss in our duty if we failed to expose the newcomers to the experience gained in previous years.

To do this we have several theoretical and practical sessions. The practical sessions deal with CANOEING SKILLS; PORTAGING; CAMP-CRAFT SKILLS (axemanship, tent pitching, etc.); COOKING and ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION. Each trip Leader is provided with the following mimeographed material: a menu, a food list, cooking and mixing directions, an equipment list, a check list of things to be done before departing, a map, a portage report covering his area, and a trip report check list to be completed upon his return.

The lecture part of the In-Service Training deals with the following points, which are listed here in brief:

Planning the Trip:

1. Discuss the trip together as a party

and decide the destination, the route and some purpose or project for the trip, such as collecting driftwood, making a campsite or visiting some popular spot.

2. Make sure everyone knows the route—where you plan to camp each night, where you plan to eat lunch each day, how many miles of portaging, how many miles of paddling each day. These plans may be modified daily in the light of existing circumstances, but everyone should know the overall picture.

3. Always check off your food and equipment against the prepared list to make sure you have not forgotten anyhing. Similarly, check your departure check list.

4. Find out the abilities of the members of your party. Who can use an axe well, who likes to cook, who are the better paddlers, what is their swimming ability.

5. Make sure you know the date and time of your departure and return. Leave this information and an itinerary of your route at camp, as well as an accurate list of the members of your party.

Travelling:

1. Travel as a party. Balance the paddling ability between the canoes so that they will stay together without one group having to overwork.

2. When portaging stay together. Balance the load so that the strongest camper carries the heaviest load, and the smallest camper has no more than he is able to cope with. The lead person should be instructed to stop if the trail forks or he cannot see or hear the rest of the party.

3. Plan your route across each lake, taking advantage of the wind and the shelter of the shore, if need be.

4. Do not attempt to cross a lake if there is any doubt that the weakest member of your party cannot make it. Safety first. WATCH FOR WEATHER SIGNS. Do not try to cross a lake if there may be a storm coming up. Skirt the shore, or stay where you are until you are sure your party can make it.

5. Have an organized plan for getting people out of the canoes at portages and in again at the next lake. Try to do these things efficiently and as quickly as possible.

At the Campsite:

1. Organize the setting up of camp. Assign duties. Attempt to do all the jobs as efficiently as possible. Remember, as a counsellor you are supposed to be teaching campers the best way of doing things.

2. Discuss the forthcoming meal with your party—they are very interested. Have a schedule of work so that all campers get an opportunity to help with the cooking and campcraft. Follow the menu. Organize your kitchen, plan the order of the meal's preparation, and take pride in preparing meals quickly.

3. Always pitch your tent, make a latrine, a garbage pit (not in the lake please), a fireplace, and a kitchen table.

continued on page 26

CAMPING . . . . . .

By Mrs. George Brigden, R.N., B.Sc.N.

On the opening day of Camp, and again in August, the children who arrive at camp should be sent directly to the infirmary, even before they collect their baggage or go to their cabins. Any health certificates which have not been mailed in a few days prior to Camp could be presented by the child or the counsellor, as the camper takes his turn in line for his medical examination.

Every camp ought to have a registered nurse on the Staff, and if the camp is large, a doctor, and a nurse's assistant, or better still, another nurse in attendance. On these days when the new campers arrive, it is advisable, in the small camp, to call in the local doctor to give the campers their physical examination. Camp nurses and directors should never be satisfied with the report of the examination done by the city doctor, for it is possible for the child to contact some contageous disease in the intervening time between his last check-up and his arrival at Camp. Careful watch, therefore should be made for such skin diseases as athlete's foot and impetago, and for the communicable diseases, chickenpox, measles etc.

Either that day or the next, as soon as the children have unpacked, the nurse, during a rest hour period, would be well advised to go from cabin to cabin and collect any medicine which the children and counsellors have brought with them. Some children will bring their drugs directly to the infirmary, but many are tardy or forget altogether. It is important, especially with counsellors, to ask for their cosmetic alchohol, aspirins, laxatives and other common types of drugs, which are not harmful to the owner, but which should not be accessible to the younger age groups, for fear of overdose. All drugs and medicines should be kept in the infirmary, and dispensed as ordered or as required. This is a very important health rule to observe.

Drugs to be taken with meals ought never to be left in the dining room. The nurse, coming to lunch, can bring them with her in a little box, and keep them at her table. This has a dual purpose. First, the nurse knows that the child is taking the medicine, and second, the nurse can order more when the supply nears exhaustion. I do not feel that the supervision of the taking of medicines with meals, should ever be the counsellors' responsibility.

During the summer, many camps make it a point to have medical representation at each weekly staff meeting. Either the nurse or doctor presents a weekly report on any of the general conditions in camp (from a health standpoint) which may be altered or improved. Problems may range from the sanitary conditions in the dining room, poor health habits in cabins, to the ideal length of time for the swimming period on cool days. Counsellors may seek advice concerning the health of campers in their charge, and health talks are often in-

. . . . from the NURSE'S VIEWPOINT

Our readers who plan to attend the Ontario Camping Association conference in Toronto on March 25th and 26th, 1960, at the King Edward Hotel, will be pleased to know that Mrs. Brigden is to conduct a session on the subject of health at camp.

itiated in this way. This practice of instituting medical reports at weekly staff meetings is highly recommended, and could be successfully adopted in all camps.

Some infirmaries are quite elaborate, and any nurse who has a large variety of equipment at her disposal, is indeed fortunate. Whether or not this is the case in your camp, I should like to stress a few essential items which every health centre should contain.

Keep a small locked cupboard or strongbox in your infirmary for drugs, such as barbiturates or poisonous medicines which are too dangerous to leave in an open cupboard.

Some drugs, such as allergy and anti-tetanus serums have to be kept on ice. The kitchen refrigerator is not the place for them. If the camp can purchase an icebox, this is ideal, for then both drugs and cold drinks and jellys can be kept at a desirable temperature. A good substitute for the icebox is the lined tin box which, though too small for the storage of foods, is large enough to accommodate drugs.

An isolation unit ought to be a "must". I do not mean by this, a separate room set aside for contageous diseases only, but I am referring to a complete **unit** of articles used for complete nursing care. A child with mumps, for instance, needs her own bedside table, her own basin, cup, soapdish, dishes and tray, and these should never be mixed with other equipment. An infirmary with two or three beds and only one hand basin, to cite an example, is not properly equipped. If a child has mumps in one room, and another child lies in bed next door with an upset stomach, one basin cannot be shared by both children.

Every camp nurse requires facilities for sterilizing supplies, and any small stove and covered receptacle should be adequate.

A final word about equipment. If you do not already have it, put a stove in your health centre to provide warmth on cold and damp days. Head colds and respiratory infections are the commonest complaints in every camp. You will speed your camper's health back to normal if you can provide warm dry air in your infirmary.

Fatigue in Camp and Some Ways to Prevent It

In order to combat fatigue among campers, pre-camp education for staff members is an ideal way to begin. At the spring meeting, the camp nurse, or doctor, or director, is well advised to emphasize to the staff, the importance of plenty of rest for each camper. All campers are experiencing a growing period, and counsellors, appreciating this, can more readily perceive the importance of adequate rest and sleep, and a balanced activity program. They can learn to watch for signs of fatigue in their campers, and gear the cabin program accordingly,

turn to next page

or bring their problems to the attention of senior staff members.

The first couple of days at camp are an exciting time for any child, as he or she is busy adjusting to new surroundings, new people, and even perhaps, new food. If the program is planned to provide for plenty of free periods in which to unpack and explore, the camper will make a healthier beginning.

Swimming periods ought to be very short at first. New sets of muscles are being brought into play, and a fifteen minute swim in the morning and in the afternoon is adequate. This general rule can be applied to every new sport, of course, but need not be so strongly emphasized.

Throughout the summer, the daily afternoon rest should always be observed. The question has often been raised, "HOW STRICTLY?" After the noon meal, campers and counsellors can go directly to their cabins. This is not the time for tuck, (that can be fitted into the daily programme quite successfully after the supper hour).

Counsellors often find the rest period the only free time in which to attend short staff meetings, but at least one staff member should be in each cabin. Rest patrol is as important as night patrol, and campers should stay on their beds for at least an hour, depending on the age group. Reading books and writing letters are excellent silent occupations, but talking should be forbidden except in cases of necessity, and sleep habits encouraged. Setting an early bedtime hour is an excellent remedy for the noisy group.

The evening program can be so organized that the last ten or fifteen minutes are toned down in intensity. Some camps plan quiet firesides with evening songs, a story or some form of worship. This helps to prepare the campers for bedtime, and they will go quietly to their cabins after "taps" and not finish the day tense and excited from a stimulating programme. Again, a certain amount of discipline is necessary in order to get the camp to sleep. Where a large number of campers are involved, it is essential to be very firm about this, or chaos will surely ensue.

The success of the afternoon nap and observance of bedtime rules, however, depend largely on the pattern set the first days of camp, and the attitude of counsellors toward their cabin groups. Children soon realize that rules are not meant to be broken, and with a little firmness on the part of everyone at the outset, campers soon adjust to the routine, and appreciate the maximum of rest and sleep.

One final word regarding fatigue. No two people are the same in physical build or emotional structure. All staff members, especially cabin counsellors need to watch for signs of fatigue in the individual child. Camp life is strenuous and some campers need a periodic rest from the full daily program. Often a night spent in the infirmary is all that the child requires to regain lost vitality. Sometimes such enervating sports as riding or basketball can be temporarily replaced by a "free" period, or the hour spent at handicrafts instead. Every situation differs from every other, and should be dealt with individually, according to the degree and nature of the fatigue experienced by the camper.

Every child is at camp to have a holiday. He or she has had a long, hard year at school, and requires a programme designed to build him or

her up for the winter months. If the camper returns to the city at the end of the holiday very much in need of a rest, one of the main purposes of camp has been defeated. Let each camper participate in activities at his or her own pace. Each will be a healthier, happier person.

Guard the Health of Your Canoe Trippers

Canoe trips are experiences to be enjoyed. The object of any trip is never to see how much paddling can be done in a set space of time, or how many portages can be crossed, but is designed instead, to afford pleasure to the camper, to help him gain experience in woodlore, and to provide an opportunity for campers to live and work in harmony together. No child should come back from a canoe trip physically exhausted and emotionally unstrung.

The day before a camper or counsellor sets out on a canoe trip, he or she needs a medical check-up, and the reminder to go to bed early that night. In the morning, when equipment is being packed, and canoes loaded, a counsellor, or some other authorized staff member can check the clothing and bedding of each camper, to insure that the child has proper protection against sun, rain and cold.

Plan to have the initial trips of the season short overnight excursions, or three day trips for older campers. The pace should be stimulating, at an even tempo, but never pressing. Trippers should select a camp site about 4 p.m. and begin to make camp. To paddle until 5 or 6 o'clock is both too late and too long. A late stop means a late supper, a late camp fire, and a late bedtime. Every canoe trip should carry one tent in case of rain, and the ideal time to pitch it is before supper every afternoon, not after the rain has started and the bedding is damp.

The short route with the side trips is best, if this is possible. This way, trippers can see a great deal of country without becoming over-tired, as they can plan excursions to fit their timetable, and still be close to the main camp. This is suggested because campers on the round-trip route often encounter bad weather, and are hampered from travelling and consequently are forced to paddle furiously the last day or two, in order to arrive home on schedule.

Often, on canoe trips, the same camp site is used over and over again throughout the season. If this is the case, some kind of lavatory ought to be erected, which can easily be kept clean and sanitary by each group of campers. This is very important, and not only can water pollution be prevented, but pleasant surroundings can thereafter be maintained for trippers, and for any cottagers living in the area.

All good trippers carry a First-aid kit with them, and I am sure there are no exceptions to this rule. Here are some suggestions, however, regarding the contents: A waterproof box with rounded edges is ideal for carrying in packs, and can easily be taped to any canoe. Water purifier, insect repellent (such as D-12) and sunburn salve are also essential. Salt tablets, antiseptic, tape, gauze, and cotton should also be included, and most campers need a small darning needle with which to remove splinters. One important item which is often neglected is the first-aid manual, a tiny book which ought never to be omitted. Also, include a pair of scissors.

There is one piece of equipment which I doubt many camps provide for canoe trips. This is mosquito net-

continued on page 27

SELECTING A CAMP SITE? . . . . . .

The field of organized camping is growing faster than the statisticians can record. The Ontario Department of Education alone records nearly five hundred non-profit camps in their files. The Canadian Camping Association membership of about three hundred camps represents only a fraction of all the existing camps in Canada. Many new camps are founded each year by churches, service clubs, social agencies or individuals. As a camp owner-director, who has just gone through the process of finding, purchasing and developing a new camp site, I would like to pass on a few hints that might help others to avoid the many pitfalls that lie along the way. Any one mistake could not only be costly, it could be disastrous. Unfortunately, mistakes don't become evident until the developing and operating stages—when it is too late to reverse your course and it is costly to remedy.

First, establish a camp committee with broad representation. Some members should have a strong camping background, others will have financial, legal, engineering, building, business, educational and parental backgrounds to suggest but a few possibilities. Build a committee that will bring rich and varied experience to your meetings. A camp with a strong committee has a solid foundation.

The camp committee should establish written objectives for the camp that will serve to guide the "camp site selection" committee in their search. Why is this camp being established? Whom will it serve? (Age groups, numbers, type of campers) A site serving physically handicapped children would naturally need special consideration. From what cities will the campers be drawn? Will the camp site ever be enlarged? How much money can you afford to pay for a site?

A virgin site allows one the freedom to build everything new and to one's own specifications. However, at today's building prices, the cost can be staggering if not prohibitive. Finding a partially cleared and developed site (e.g.) a farm, a lodge or a small camp is initially cheaper but is often a compromise of what is desired.

Appoint a small, temporary sub-committee to select the camp site. This committee should include the camp director, someone else with a strong camping background plus such people as an architect, a builder, a financial person, plus a lawyer. This is a technical committee.

At the outset the sub-committee should be warned that finding the right site is difficult, in fact, it can be downright discouraging. I know people who have been looking for eight or ten years for the right site—without success.

Knowing the principal city or cities from which your campers will be

drawn, you should determine how many miles you are willing to travel to reach camp. Remember that what seems like wilderness or great distance today will probably be a burgeoning holiday center reached by direct, fast roads within a few years. All of us can think of such examples within our own memories. Therefore, do not be timid about reaching out into less developed areas; prices will be in direct relationship to the density of population.

Check the policy governing crown lands in your province. In some provinces the number of acres available to any one camp are far too small for camping purposes. If available in large enough tracts, this land will be cheapest. However, it will also be the least accessible and least developed.

Real estate men in the outlying areas can often save you months and thousands of miles of fruitless wanderings over bumpy back roads. Outline your requirements and circulate these to real estate agents. When possible sites have been submitted to you, map out a weekend itinerary that will enable the committee to visit a number of prospective sites during one trip north. Some sites will rule themselves out at first sight but others will be worthy of consideration. Resign yourself to the fact that you will not find the "IDEAL" site. You will have to compromise on some things.

After you look at from ten to twenty sites, they will become fuzzy in your memory. In order to be able to compare sites, I set up a form that gave me essential information on each site visited. In this way the merits of each site can be weighted against the others and the number narrowed down to a few "good" prospects. These should then be revisited. It is surprising how different a site will look when seen for the second time. Never buy until you have seen a site two, or even three, times over a period of weeks.

Before making a final decision, it would be wise to bring in some outside, unbiased consultant, probably someone from the provincial camping association, with considerable experience. Experienced, objective eyes can often see things that an emotionally involved committee will overlook.

. . . . . JUMP IN SLOWLY

Barry G. Lowes, Director, Camp Timberlane.

Points of Consideration For The Selection Committee:

Water Supply:

If the water supply and drainage are poor—don't waste time looking any further. What is the source? Submit a sample for testing before final purchasing. Is the volume great enough all summer for all uses (kitchen, laundry, toilets, fire fighting, etc.). Beware of wells, they have a habit of running dry in August. Does any habitation or industry pose a threat to the water's purity?

turn to next page

Drainage:

Getting water is usually easy. It is getting rid of it that poses the biggest problem in camp maintenance. What kind of soil is it? (Sand, loam, clay, rock, etc.) Is it low lying or swampy? Will sewage seep into your lake or settle in low lying areas? How would you dispose of wastes on this site?

General Topography:

How large is the site? (One acre per camper is recommended) Is the site on high ground or low land, hilly or flat? Is there some cleared land suitable for buildings and playfields? Are there a generous number of wooded acres? Does it lend itself to natural divisions for decentralized camping? How much shore line is there? What is it like? (Steep, sloping, rocky, sandy, etc.) Is the site beautiful?

Buildings:

Are the existing buildings suitable for camp use? What would their replacement value be? How much will it cost to move or convert them for camp use?

Swimming Area:

What is the nature of the bottom? (Sandy, muddy, rocky). Is it gently sloping or does it drop off suddenly? (Extremely dangerous). Are there weeds, leeches? Is the water clear or murky? What is the source of the lake water? Who controls the level of the water? (This is serious since some lakes drop eight feet over the summer months). How big is it? Is there a beach? Which direction would the swimming area face? Which way does the prevailing wind blow? Is it a rough lake? Is it safe for boating? What is the average summer temperature of the water? How deep is the lake? How deep is the swimming area? Are there any underwater hazards? Can the area be developed into a safe, attractive waterfront area?

Neighbours:

Who else resides on the lake? Who owns the rest of the property? Will you have privacy? Can you get an option to purchase more land as protection against the ever increasing encroachment of cottages, speed boats, skiers and too many people?
BUY AS MUCH LAND AS POSSIBLE. It will never be cheaper. Or else you may wake up one morning to find a city-type cottage subdivision on your doorstep. Is there any further community or industrial development possible or planned for the area, which would affect the camp? It may be wilderness today but within a few years a public road serving cottagers on the lake could run right through the middle of your camp.

Tripping:

Explore maps of the area. Are there chains of lakes suitable for canoe tripping? Who owns the lakes? Are camp sites available? Where will cook-outs and overnights go to camp? Is there fishing in the lake? Is there any poison ivy or oak? Poisonous snakes?

Transportation:

How far is the nearest town? How far is the nearest paved highway? How long is the camp road? What condition is it in? Who maintains it? Is the road kept open year round? How will campers be transported to camp? Where is the closest railway depot?

Services:

Is electric power available? Telephone? How far is the closest hospital?

Doctor? Post Office? Church? Forest Ranger Station? Fire Department? Closest dairy? Bread supply? Groceries, meats and other foods? Garbage dump? Laundry? Lumber company? Plumbers? Electricians? Motel or lodges for visiting parents? Is local labour available?

Legal:

Do not consider purchasing any property without competent legal advice. Many properties have never been surveyed. Boundaries are often vaguely defined. Liens on properties are common. Make sure the owner has clear title to the property. Some properties have unusual conditions attached to their deeds giving special rights to individuals or development companies. Be certain that you have the mineral and timber rights to your property.

This list is not exhaustive. However, if you have considered all of these points before purchasing a camp site, you will be buying with your eyes open, and your problems should be small ones once you start to build and develop.

Before making a final decision, walk over and over your property. Try to project your imagination ahead five to ten years. How could this site look ultimately? Mentally lay out the camp. This will soon show up any defects. Don't get carried away with enthusiasm at this stage; be realistic.

Once you have purchased the property, draw up a Master Plan that puts the camp on paper. Plot every area and building as it will appear ultimately. Plan years ahead, assigning priorities and anticipated costs. Every building, every clearing, every dollar spent will be a piece of the larger picture fitting into place.

It is an exciting, challenging experience. Good luck.

A copy of a suggested form to guide committees in selecting a site may be had free by writing to the Ontario Camping Association.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

1. **Ontario Camping Association**
   93 Yorkville Ave.,
   Toronto, Ontario.
   (This Association offers professional technical assistance by successful camp operators, together with a manual "A Study of Camping Practices".)
2. **Department of Education (Ontario)**
   Physical Education Branch,
   205 Huron Street,
   Toronto 5, Ont.
   (This Department gives assistance in the training of leaders at their Bark Lake Camp, in payment of grants, and providing consulting services for non-profit camps in October.)
3. **Department of Health (Ontario)**
   Sanitary Engineering Division,
   Parliament Buildings,
   Toronto, Ontario.
   (Camps must be inspected and licensed by this Department. Recommendations for good sanitary facilities will be given.)
4. **Canadian Red Cross Society**
   Water Safety Services,
   460 Jarvis Street,
   Toronto, Ontario.
   (This Department offers a planning service for camp waterfronts.)
5. **Camp Site Development**
   Julian Harris Salomon,
   Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.,
   155 East 44th Street,
   New York 17, New York.
6. **Administration of the Modern Camp**
   Hedley S. Dimock,
   Association Press,
   New York 17, New York.

—●

DOS' AND DON'TS . . . . . .

DON'T handle foods while you have an open sore or boil on your hands, forearms, or face.

DON'T handle food if you have a sore throat or sinusitis, or have recently recovered from typhoid or diarrhea.

DON'T use cooking spoons or forks to taste food while cooking or serving.

DON'T lick your fingers while you are working with food.

DON'T use dried eggs except for baking. They may contain salmonella bacteria which can cause illness unless the product in which they are used is thoroughly cooked.

DON'T serve cream puddings, cream pies, or cream puffs unless you can refrigerate them as soon as they are prepared. Keep them in the refrigerator until they are served.

DON'T use canned food if the ends of the can are bulged, if the can leaks or if liquid gushes out when the can is opened. The food is spoiled and should be thrown out. Discard any canned food that is mushy, slimy, moldy, or has a soft appearance or an unpleasant odor.

DON'T taste any canned food that is suspected of spoilage. It may cause food poisoning, and should be thrown out immediately.

DO use water from a safe municipal supply or from another source known to be of good sanitary quality.

DO wash your hands often with soap and warm water, especially after you use the toilet. Keep your hands away from your mouth and nose.

DO regard your hands as contaminated. Keep them out of food as much as you can, and away from dish surfaces that come in contact with the campers' lips. Learn to pick up glasses at the base, and cups and silver by the handles.

FOR FOOD HANDLERS

Ruth Carruthers, Dietitian,
Camps Bolton and Illahee,
Neighbourhood Workers Association,
Toronto.

DO wear clean, washable clothes and a cap or hair net.

DO use only pasteurized milk and cream, and ice cream, butter, and cheese made from pasteurized milk or cream.

DO buy meats that bear the federal inspection stamp, or are from a locally inspected source.

DO cook pork till a meat thermometer registers an internal temperature of 185 degrees F.

DO serve oysters and clams only from approved sources. You can determine whether the source is approved by checking the labels against a list of approved shippers and dealers obtainable from state or city health officers.

DO boil vigorously for 15 minutes such home-canned, nonacid foods as peas and string beans.

DO keep your kitchen free from flies, roaches, rats, and mice.

DO label poisons; store them apart from your food. Too often, white, powdered insecticides have been mistaken for sugar or flour.

DO keep fresh foods and cooked foods that must be held for several hours in the refrigerator at a temperature between 35 degrees and 42 degrees F. Meats, particularly tenderized ham, will spoil if they are held at room temperature for long periods after cooking. Ham and held-over chicken and turkey are frequently the cause of bacterial food poisoning.

DO practice good housekeeping. Wash tabletops and other work surfaces every time you use them. Defrost and clean refrigerators at a regular time each week. Keep your storeroom clean and orderly. Wash meat grinders and meat slicers thoroughly, immediately after you use them. If these pieces of equipment are not washed as soon as they are used, germs will multiply in the meat particles that remain in them, and may cause illness.

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DUEL . . . . . .

When the Ontario Camping Association Ea
in Ottawa, a panel of interested parents pr
aims from the parents' viewpoint. Mrs. E
reprint their presentations for Canadian C

LET'S GO CAMPING

By Dorothy H. Davis

Frankly, I do not know of any reason why parents of an average child or children would not want to send their children to a well run summer camp. Camping can provide an experience and set of values for children, that will serve them all their lives.

A family camp offers chidren an abundance of activities and a great fund of knowledge. They learn to amuse themselves by collecting items for a museum, building a tree-house or a raft, or watching a turtle laying eggs. They see and respect the awe of a thunderstorm, the beauty of a sunrise and sunset. The child should have certain responsibilities to fulfill, but should also have time to relax and think, and wonder. Mental health is as important as physical health, and I feel that both are benefited by camping.

My husband and I have four children—two girls twenty and eighteen, and two boys twelve and ten. Both girls and the eldest boy have attended non-profit summer camps with results that are very satisfactory from both their point of view and ours.

The girls started their organized camping as members of one of the finest youth organizations in the world — the Girl Guides. They experienced living under what I consider to be the best form of camping —living under canvas. They slept on straw palliasses, cooked out of doors, and lived in close proximity to other girls of a similar age group, but with varying backgrounds, interests and other personal attributes. They lived close to nature and explored it's wonders. They experienced healthy physical and mental exercises, and most important, they experienced personal relationship with other girl counsellors and senior staff, that enabled them to find themselves and orient themselves to authority, self-reliance, initiative, responsibility, and tolerance. They learned the beauty and reverence of outdoor worship.

They have camped elsewhere, and have been most fortunate in their camp directors, counsellors, and camp facilities. These latter are what make good or bad impressions of camping, and in regard to these matters, the parents must make adequate investigation before sending a child to a camp.

Our boys are younger and the eldest only has attended a camp other

continued on page 28

ern Section held its sixth annual Conference ented a lively discussion on camping and its wards and Mrs. Davis kindly allowed us to mping Magazine.

NEVER AGAIN!

By Margaret O. Edwards

We sent our boy to camp—ONCE! Of course, the things that happened to him, would not necessarily happen to anyone else. And as we look back at this disastrous experience, we realize that there were precautions we should have taken.

Since neither my husband nor myself had ever been to camp, we had a very casual approach to the whole thing. I had picked up a descriptive folder at a Home and School meeting. It stressed, amongst other things, the joys of learning to swim at an early age and this convinced us. We should have known that a child eight years old is much too young for a camp.

Without meeting the Director, without enquiring about counsellors, without seeing the campsite, without even contacting parents who might have sent a child to this particular camp, we forwarded our fee and in due course received the list of necessary equipment.

Little realizing that our son would have to locate and handle his baggage single handed, we packed bag upon bag with the suggested gear. It took three of us to get it to the bus and there we were disconcerted to note that everybody's clothing seemed to be encased in airforce blue bags. We had a premonition that his baggage would be hard to locate—which it was!

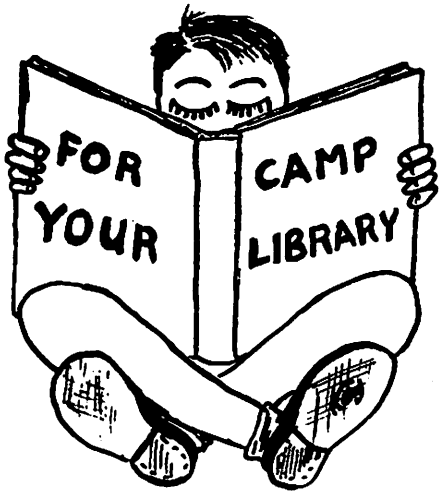
That first week of his holiday, we imagined him having a glorious time, in the great outdoors and becoming a swimmer, in due course. Visiting day was eagerly awaited and off we drove to see things for ourselves, at last.

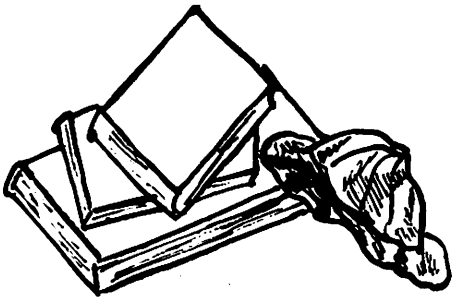
As we turned into the grounds, we suddenly hesitated. As far as the eye could see, were great stretches of poison ivy. Rolling up socks, pulling down longs, we gingerly stepped out and mingled with the other fearful visitors.

We met dozens of campers. Most of them had running eyes and running sores on their arms and legs. Yes, that's right, POISON IVY! But no one knew our boy well enough to have any idea of his whereabouts. At last we encountered a lad who did. "Oh yes, Bun Edwards. Nice little boy. He's in the hospital!"

The hospital was a neat, pleasant enough building and it was filled to capacity (you guessed it) with poison ivy cases. Our boy had merely turned his ankle and was being bandaged.

continued on page 33





by Joyce Bertram

BOYS' BOOK OF OUTBOARD BOATING

By Tom Parsons

This rather awkward title detracts not at all from the excellence of this small book. With outboards becoming so increasingly popular on all Canadian waters, a book setting out so succinctly for the young the proper choosing, handling and care of an outboard motor is very welcome. There are excellent chapters on Rules of the Road, signals, etc., as well as a short and needful reminder that the "man at the tiller" is the most important thing about the boat. Whether it should have a place in a Camp Library is debatable as few camps allow their campers to choose, service or indeed run their boats. However as a beginner's book of outboard motor care it is well worth having for reference.

Brett-Macmillan Publishing Co., Galt, Ontario. $2.50.

A GUIDE FOR TRAINERS OF GIRL SCOUT LEADERS

As its name suggests, this book is more concerned with methods used by the Girl Scout movement in the U.S. than with camping. There are however, suggestions which could be adapted for counsellor training programs in Canadian Camps.

Girl Scouts of the United States of America. $2.00.

WORKING WITH THE HANDICAPPED

This also has been written for the Girl Scout movement, but bring to our attention some excellent suggestions in the treatment of handicapped children through recreation. While it does not deal specifically with the camping program per se it does emphasize once again how important it is for the child who is not "normal". The first two or three chapters would be particularly helpful for anyone who is contemplating working, either at camp or in the city, with the handicapped child.

Girl Scouts of the United States of America, 830 Third Ave., New York, 22, N.Y. 75 cents.

THE ANGLERS' BOOK OF CANADIAN FISHES

By F. H. Wooding

According to Gregory Clark in his foreword to this book, fifty years ago a fisherman had to be "rich, idle and/or daft" before he could hope to become a successful angler. But now that easy means of transportation bring so many rivers and lakes within commuting distance, it is the exceptional family who does not boast a rabid fisherman who is neither rich, idle nor daft. This fisherman will fall upon Mr. Wooding's book with loud cries of delight. Many books set out in detail how and where to land certain fish, but this one attempts to give information about all fish indigenous to Canadian waters. Each section gives a detailed description of the particular fish and then goes on to describe how and where to catch it. Should keep the fisherman of the family happily employed all winter.

Collins Publishing Co., Toronto. $6.95.

XINGU

By Violette and John Viertel

This little book is an enchanting tale of a boy on the shores of the Amazon River in South America. His friends are the various animals which frequent that locale and some of them are quite charming—some of them are NOT so quite! But then Xingu is given a bow and arrow for his birthday and playfully shoots his dearest friend the vicuna. Chasing the vicuna through the jungle, little Xingu realizes what a lonely and scarey place it is with none of his familiar friends about. But he is forgiven by his wounded friend and all the other animals, and promises to plant seeds and roots and live from the land rather than to go hunting any more. Illustrations are by Karla Kuskin.

Brett-Macmillan Publishing Co., Galt, Ont. $2.75.

CAMPSITE DEVELOPMENT

By Julian Salomon

This is an entirely new and enlarged edition of the book first published ten years ago. In that intervening space of time many changes have taken place in building trends, and this book shows very clearly that there is no quarrel between the rustic type of construction favoured by many camps, and the use of new materials. Although intended originally for all those concerned with planning and building Girl Scout camping facilities, it will doubtless prove to be an excellent reference book for any interested in camp site development, particularly if they are lucky enough to be starting from scratch. This book is lavishly illustrated with all types of buildings from tent platforms to split level lodges. It is a most valuable book for all directors and camp planning boards.

Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., 830 Third Ave., New York 22, N.Y. $5.

GIRL SCOUTS' NATURE QUIZ BOOKLET A CHALLENGE TO ALL AGES

Is the upper lip of a rabbit split? Do all birds have hollow bones? Anyone versed in the questions and answers in **True and False,** an up-to-date pocket quiz booklet published by the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., will know these questions immediately.

Whimsically illustrated in pen and ink, **True and False,** explodes the myths and superstitions held by many adults about the Animal, Vegetable and Mineral worlds.

To prove the point, merely ask the self-appointed "expert" if a giraffe can bellow like an elephant. Odds are,

continued on page 29

continued from page 10

4. Retire early and rise early. The evening meal should be completed well before dark.

5. Leave the campsite better than you found it. Make sure you do not leave any of your belongings behind. These are signs of a good camper.

Safety:

1. SWIMMING—There must be rules on a trip as well as in camp. Check the area for submerged rocks or logs. Swim parallel to the shore, not out from it. Swimming takes place only when and where the trip leader says. Use the Buddy System with one counsellor acting as lifeguard.

2. CANOEING — When travelling, canoes should stay together. At the campsite the leader should determine the "canoeing area" and keep one canoe on shore for rescue purposes.

3. CHOPPING — Find out who can handle an axe before leaving camp. Then only permit those who have some skill to chop while on a trip, and then under supervision. A bad cut can spoil the trip for everyone.

4. FIRST AID—Make sure you know first aid and artificial respiration. Always know the fastest way home. Have an emergency plan.

5. KNOW—

(a) How to avoid getting lost.

(b) What to do if you are lost.

(c) How to prevent the canoe from tipping.

(d) What to do if the canoe does tip.

(e) How to make a safe fire and put it out.

(f) What to do to keep dry in wet weather.

General:

1. Enjoy the trip. Learn as much as you can about the out-of-doors, the weather signs, the best way to do things. The more your knowledge increases about tripping, the more you will enjoy it.

2. Encourage the taking of notes and writing trip reports. Those who do will get more out of the trip. Have every member of the party follow the map as you go along, so that all will know where they are going.

3. Instruct campers as you go along. Point out interesting things. Tell them the names of the various trees, and wild flowers. Talk and sing together.

4. Endeavour not to get wet, above all, do not stay wet. It is a miserable feeling and nothing will dampen your enthusiasm for trips as much. Learn how to camp in wet weather.

5. Let the campers do the work. Guide them and help them, but let them do as much as their age and ability permit. The more they do, the more they will learn, and the more they will enjoy the trip.

—●

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continued from page 15

ting. If it is not supplied by the trip room, there is no reason why campers cannot come to camp equipped with cheap netting of suitable dimensions. Once the bedroll is laid out on the ground, it does not take much ingenuity to make a little tent of netting at the head of the bed by propping up the gauze with four sticks pushed into the earth.

Your campers' safety and good health in camp are imperative. See that they are imperative on canoe trips too.

In addition to this article, please refer to Fatigue at Camp by Dr. J. Harry Ebbs, which may be purchased from the Ontario Camping Association, 93 Yorkville Avenue, Toronto 5, at a cost of 10 cents per copy.

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ADVANCE NOTICE!

JOINT CONFERENCE

of the

CANADIAN CAMPING ASSOCIATION

and

QUEBEC CAMPING ASSOCIATION

•

April 8th & 9th 1960

•

SHERATON-MOUNT ROYAL HOTEL

MONTREAL, QUE.

continued from page 22

than our own. Both are enjoying the advantages of Scout training, and the eldest has attended a Y camp once and is returning this summer. We expect them to learn manliness, and among boys of their own age, have the experiences that I have mentioned in relation to our girls.

I wish to emphasize the responsibilities I believe parents have in evaluating the staff and physical assets of a camp before making a choice. Points of safety, health, staff personnel and programme should be carefully investigated. Water safety, sleeping and kitchen arrangements, and religious program are important points.

Parents should be satisfied with the principles and aims of the camp and be satisfied with the program planned for various age groups. Nature hikes, overnight trips and camp skills, taught by a good counsellor, are useful and enriching. If these have been happy and rewarding experiences for the child, the impressions will be re-lived many times before the next camp period comes around.

Nearly every camp has disturbed children among the well-balanced. I would expect a member of the staff to try to understand the disturbed child and offer some help.

We hope and expect that our children will be happy, responsible and well-adjusted adults. Through troubled waters as well as calm, we believe their camping experiences have given them intangible assets upon which they can always rely.

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continued from page 25

the "expert" will be amazed to learn that giraffes have no vocal chords, that the ruby, not the diamond is the most precious of gems, and that the plant of the vanilla bean is actually a climbing orchid!

Ideal for science classes, TV quiz contestants and nature lovers of all ages, **True and False** sells for 10 cents and may be ordered through National Equipment Service, Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., 830 Third Avenue, New York 22, New York.

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Crafts Materials

Donated by Mother Nature

Very few camps have an unlimited budget for crafts materials, but at every camp site nearly all, and at least some, of the following weeds and pods grow along the roadside or at the water's edge. There they are, free for the gathering, ready to be enthusiastically mixed with the imamgination and initiative of your crafts counsellor:

CORN HUSKS, CAT TAILS, GRASSES can be gathered when full grown, dried and hung for drying. Moisten them for use, experiment with dyes if you wish colour, and use them for weaving or braiding.

CAT TAIL OR MILKWEED POD FLUFF can be used for stuffing toys.

NUTS AND ACORNS can be cut with a saw (carefully) and used for earrings, neckerchief holders, brooches, bracelets, place cards and other novelties as far as the imagination can conceive.

WILLOW for whistles.

CLAY may be fired and glazed. Keep your eyes open. It's surprising how often small clay deposits occur in sandy areas.

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PLAN NOW!

TO

ATTEND THE

ONTARIO CAMPING ASSOCIATION

CAMPING CONFERENCE

at the

KING EDWARD HOTEL

Toronto

MARCH 25th & 26th 1960

NATURE TOOLS

Bettye Breeser

Reprinted from Recreation Magazine.

Mrs. Breeser *is a member of the Pennsylvania section of the American Camping Association, and was chairman of the Downingtown Area In-Camp Nature Institute, 1956, a Comstock Society executive board member, and past president of the Professional Writers Club of Philadelphia. She has had twenty years camping experience, with eight years as a camp director.*

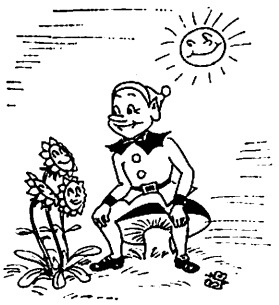
Nature is one of the easiest subjects to present to campers, for it is all around them. However, directors are constantly faced with the problem of getting a good nature counsellor who can inspire and interest youngsters. Rather than having one specialist in the field, it is better that all counsellors, from the water-front instructor to the camp nurse, be aware of the never-ending challenge of on-the-spot nature.

One man, hired by a camp, presented an excellent unscheduled nature session to some happy campers when he discovered a small rabbit family while mowing a field. The children's delight in making their own nest for imaginary play highlighted worthwhile creative activities as well as wildlife conservation.

Campers who dub a maple the "nose tree" are being exposed to good nature study, for their fun in wearing a split seed flyer on their nose is a fine firsthand experience in observation, and they will long remember the maple in this connection. Perhaps the name "crying tree" is a little far-fetched, but lucky are the youngsters with the counsellor who points out the beechnut's teardrop shape. Long ago joys of youth included such things as shooting a narrow-leaf plantain top and being able to blow a blade of grass. Children today, in spite of a life geared to television, radio and movies, are still happy to blow a dandelion's white top and test their chins with a buttercup to see if they like butter.

Conservation must start early with youth, for too many years have already passed with people destroying rather than enjoying nature. Diking a camp stream to make pools for small fish during dry spells has a two-way advantage: the preservation of flippers and an excellent water program for the campers. It's easy for children to dam a stream, and mud oozing up between the toes is an elixir unrivalled. Critter life in any stream is unpredictable and exciting, and there's an inexplicable thrill in catching the first frog, turtle, salamander or crawfish.

The common jewelweed or touch-me-not crowds many of our camp streams, but how many campers are ever told that the plant usually has bright red "toes" (roots), and that the leaves when submerged turn silver? How about the reed worms in those browning grass stalks when they want



to fish? Digging worms isn't always easy, but there's bait under rocks and in the reeds for those who explore.

The young whittler who craves to carve his name on the nearest tree can be encouraged to do a bit of conservation with his knife. Replanting eroded stream banks with freshly cut willow shoots is an excellent nature program.

Encouraging children to see at all three levels is wise, for there's just as much to enjoy in the vastness of the sky as on the ant level. To lie down in a field is to open up a new world to a camper. These minutes of viewing will offer a world of fantasy as the child sees cloud witches, animals, castles and imaginary characters floating above. There's still joy in pulling off the petals of the daisy to see if "he loves me, he loves me not," and a daisy wreath still tops the list of childhood crafts.

By a stretch of the imagination, a grove of trees can well become a camp's "castle." Through the shaded paths boys and girls can create a simple yet worthwhile enchanted trail. The counsellor who stimulates this project by offering some cleverly posted signs is well on his way to a good nature project. "Step through this tree and make a wish!" can spark the first lap of such a trail, followed by a note on a stump that reads, "The magic throne—sit on it and your wish will come true!"

"This is the birds' opera house — listen!" will encourage silence near a thicket, with a notice further on suggesting that "The mitten tree (sassafras) grows close by—can you find any left-handed ones?" An arched grove of locust trees might suggest the "tunnel of the giants," and a tangle of honey-suckle the "home of the wicked witch!" All this is nature interwoven with creative play and offers any camp leader unending possibilities.

Assorted burrs that grow along wooded trails can be used for clever table decorations. With the addition of two small green leaves they assume shapes of insects to top ferns or flowers in a bouquet. The common May apple, arranged with twigs, can become a coy duck, peacock, or camp "happy bird."

Plays and stories dealing with nature are vital in a camp setting. Young actors are naturals when they are performing on a soft, wooded stage, and lessons learned are long remembered. The child who makes a helmet of red oak leaves will know the spine tips of the tree. He will long remember the music of the stream as he said his brief part in a play with the scent of the freshly cut spicebush as the backdrop.

Creative writing is a valuable tool for nature. Stories written about a tree, flower, shrub, or animal found in camp can well evolve into pantomime dramatics. Children are not always deft with the mechanics of writing, but a wise counsellor jots down their thinking, and catches their vivid imagination as stories are told.

The reflection of blue sky on a Virginia creeper leaf may suggest the sky's looking glass to some campers, while a story of the magic umbrellas may come from knowing the May apple. Galls are intriguing, and some child may chance to write a story on how the elves place tiny "fried eggs" on maple leaves.

Counting age rings on a tree could well suggest a story on the imaginary history of the tree. Did Indians ever camp beneath its shade, and what years suffered drought? The widest

rings usually appear on the north side, or dampest portion of the tree, which brings into focus the subject of finding direction without a compass.

All grasses are not the same. Why not make a booklet of the collection in camp? The graceful specimens, mounted on black construction paper and covered with a clear plastic film are longlasting and educational. Dancing dolls from long-needled pines will keep many a young miss happy for hours. Pretty stones, mounted in plaster of Paris are unique paperweights to be taken home as a souvenir.

Campfires are also nature, for the direction of the smoke can well forecast the expected weather. By just listening, too, campers can tell if rain is due by the distant whistles. Their sense of smell is keen and the wise counsellor is ever on the alert to recognize the ozone after a rain, the freshness of a woods in the morning and the fragrance of new mown hay.

The cracking of twigs and dry leaves on a southern slope should be pointed out to campers to compare with the quiet spongy footing they experience on a northern hillside. Country children for decades have found pleasure in chewing sourgrass (wood sorrel), mint, spicebush, sassafras and the like, and there's still a big thrill in catching the large drop of nectar from the top of a honeysuckle blossom.

All campers should know the slippery inner bark of a willow twig, for whistle making was a craft of our forefathers. Dandelion stems make excellent curls when split and dropped in water. Violets and many other wild flowers explode their pods when ripe. Are these the "sharpshooters" of the woods? Nature materials are found in almost all camp settings, even in city parks. The "throw-aways" of nature, such as pods, seeds, shedding bark and leaves, are naturecraft materials to the counsellor with imagination.

Campers should have time to watch the bees in a hollyhock and see the backward flight of a humming bird as he leaves a blossom. They should catch fireflies and watch ants at work in their mounds. The feel of moist grass at sunup should be theirs and their eyes should marvel at the panorama of color at sunset.

They should see their own reflection in a stream and the mirrored leaves overhead. The softness of moss should not be strange to young feet nor the powdery dust of a camp lane. Their hands should be stained with the juice of wild strawberries, and they should know the milky fluid that seeps from the stem of the milkweed. This is nature the easy way. Intensified study and identification will come in later years after appreciation and love of the out-of-doors has been well rooted in camp.

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WESTON, ONT.

continued from page 23

This was the second time. The first occurred on his first day at the Camp. Exit dreams of learning to swim, since he had not been allowed in the water with his swollen foot. Carelessness, we agreed, until he hobbled out with us and took us on a tour of the campsite.

More mountainous terrain, we never hope to see. He was lucky he hadn't sprained his back. The tents were pitched on a hill and the excitement of the evening was to see if the tent would fall down in the night.

We now discovered that most of his bedding could not be located. He and another little boy had pooled the couple of blankets they could find and were sleeping on the floorboards, in a huddle, reminiscent of a rat's nest. Luxuries, such as a hat, pen, flashlight were nowhere to be found.

The swimming area also proved disappointing. A pile of sand at one end would have improved the beach, but no one had had the strength to spread it. The water looked dirty, and foreign objects floated about on it. We decided that a sprained ankle could be a blessing.

There was a new, very pleasant dining hall, where crafts were taught on rainy days. Aside from this, we found very little to recommend this garden spot of holiday retreats.

Quite naturally, we felt we'd like to meet the Director or counsellor. Nowhere could they be located. In fact, aside from the Camp nurse, there didn't seem to be anyone over twelve in attendance.

Which brought up the question, "Should we leave the boy?"

Now here we found ourselves facing a rather subtle form of mental blackmail. If a child left a camp before the allotted time, there was something wrong with him. Never with the camp, just with him!

continued on page 42

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A GUIDE POST TO SAFE WATER SKIING

Harold M. Gore

Water skiing is believed to have had its origin twenty-five years ago among French ski troops who developed this new type of recreation by turning their snow ski abilities to the water. Now more and more snow skiers are following the same process of evolution. At first the sport was reserved for those who owned a speedboat with a powerful inboard motor. In recent years the low-cost outboard motor has all but wiped out financial barriers and brought water skiing within easy reach of the average income. Since so many youngsters are turning to the thrills of skimming across the water on a pair of wooden boards, we might plan to include this new sport in the aquatic program.

Water skiing is not difficult and does not require exceptional athletic ability. Almost anyone can learn to do it well enough to have fun. The fundamentals can be learned in a matter of hours. In many camps, waterfront leaders can readily set up a safe water skiing program if the methods are carefully explained to them. Here are the basic standards for this activity.

Two Types of Training Needed

Training a boy to ski is only half the training problem. Water skiing is tied in with and dependent upon outboard boating, and a program of outboard boatsmanship must be offered in addition to training in skiing. This should include practice in safe boat handling, training in rules of the water road, and practice of courtesy afloat.

Water skiing should conform to all regular waterfront requirements. Every skier should be a strong swimmer and should be at home in, on, and under the water.

Boats and Motors

Two very important safety factors enter the picture at this point: (1) the selection of the proper boat and motor and (2) the teamwork developed between a trained outboard motorboat operator and the water skier.

An ideal outboard hull is probably a fourteen-foot runabout with a wide transom, about fifty-four inches. Water skiers can skim along behind

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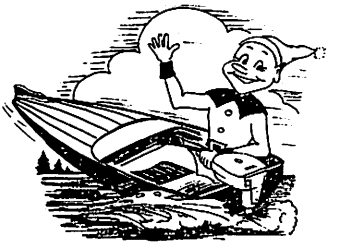
Harold M. Gore *is a member of the National Committee on Health and Safety, Boy Scouts of America, and director of Camp Najerog, Wilmington, Vermont. His article is reprinted from the bulletin.* "Health and Safety," *and used by permission of the Boy Scouts of America.*



Reprinted from Recreation Magazine.

such a boat powered with a seven-and-a-half- to ten-horsepower motor and work up a speed of from fifteen to twenty or more miles per hour. A wide stern is necessary. Towing a skier around a sharp turn can make steering difficult and boat balance unstable if the stern is narrow.

It is important to match boats and motors for best performance. If the motor is too small, it won't pull the skier up out of the water. Even worse, if the motor is too large for the hull, the boat will be overpowered. That means danger and plenty of trouble afloat. Boats certified by the Outboard Boating Club of America carry a plate stating the recommended maximum horsepower.

Proper towrope attachments are important. Lifting handles and motor clamps should not be used. Towropes should be attached to eyebolts installed on the transom.

Many boats have capsized when towing a skier in a tight turn. There should be at least one life jacket or cushion for every person on board. Other essentials in the boat include oars or paddles, ample lines, whistle or horn, first-aid kit, a knife, fire extinguisher, extra shear pins for motor, extra plugs, and a tool kit.

A Good Boatman

The water skier's partner in good skiing teamwork is the boat driver. We go along with those folks who feel that the boat driver is ninety per cent of safe skiing! The water skier's safety may depend on how well the boat is handled.

There should always be two men in the boat: a driver to operate the boat and look ahead so that he can steer the boat and skier away from possible danger spots and an observer to watch the skier and give orders to the driver.

The Skier's Equipment

The equipment for water skiing includes skis, binding, and towrope. The outboard-style ski is recommended for beginners. These are usually about six feet long and seven inches wide. Bindings are usually made of a flexible material like gum rubber, so that they will give way in case of a fall, and prevent ankle injuries. Towropes are from sixty to seventy-five feet and have a towbar attached.

The use of life vests or jackets is recommended for beginning skiers and is advisable for skiing on larger bodies of water or under unusual conditions such as cold water or rough weather.

Getting Started

Basic skiing can be learned in a very few lessons. It's important to get started correctly and not develop any bad habits in form. Points to remember: keep the knees bent, arms straight, and have the weight balanced directly over the feet, while in a half-crouch position.

Start off with a little practice ashore. Dry-land exercise is used to teach proper position and balance and to get the "feel." Then try actual starts in the water.

turn to next page

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When the skier is in the water and ready, the towboat starts at idling speed until the towrope is extended to its full length. The driver doesn't "hit it" (apply full throttle) until the rope is taut, he can see the skier's tips, and the skier has indicated that he is ready to go. It's a real partnership between the skier and driver!

When the skier is "up" on the water, power should be eased off as signaled by the skier — "thumbs up" meaning more speed, "thumbs down," less speed. Wide-arc turns are preferable. If a short turn is necessary, the driver should be sure the skier is not going to be on the inside of the turn. If the skier is outside the wake on the left (port) side, don't turn left too sharply until he has returned to the wake. If he is on the inside he will sink because of lack of speed and, unless he lets go, will have the towrope pulled from his hands when the line finally straightens out.

The boat driver must steer the skier away from all objects such as docks and sea walls and give other boats and obstacles a wide berth. He must avoid swimmers.

When recovering a fallen skiier, cut speed immediately to determine if he is entangled in rope, then return quickly, coming up at idling speed, and make a half circle around him. This will bring the towline directly into his hands. Kill the motor when taking a skier into the boat, as he may slip and get hit by the prop. An idling boat in neutral is not safe.

In the take-off the skier puts on his skis in about two or three feet of water, grabs the towbar, and then raises the tips of his skis above the water as a signal to the driver to start the boat. When the boat starts to pull, the skier should allow it to pull him up slowly to a standing position. It's important that the driver give the skier a fast but steady pull.

turn to next page

The skier does not pull up with his arms! Keep the arms straight at the take-off and let the boat do the pulling.

Code of the Safe Water Skier

- Learn to be a strong swimmer before attempting to water ski. Sr. Red Cross, Royal Life Bronze or equivalent.
- Equipment should always be tested before skiing.
- When starting, don't yell "hit it" until your ski tips are up and the rope is taut.
- Stay away from docks, sea walls, boats, and swimmers. Skiers seldom get hurt from hitting the water, but usually from striking solid objects.
- Watch the water ahead. Skier must not depend on driver to keep him from dangerous objects.
- Be thoughtful of the rights of swimmers, boatmen, and fishermen.
- On falling: Recover skis, as they will keep you afloat.

  Raise hand quickly to signal boat driver.

  If in a congested area raise a ski so other boats can see you.

  Release the handle when falling backwards.

  Avoid falling forward into the rope.
- Never wrap the towrope around the body.
- Be very careful with the rope. Getting it tangled on take-off, or pulling up on it so that you have slack while skiing, could lead to trouble.
- When landing, run parallel to shore, come in slowly, and release towbar a safe distance from shore. Do not land in swimming areas.
- Don't ski in shallow water. Avoid excessive speed. Ski progressively — the skier should never try stunts for which he does not have the basic skill.

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Q. Where do bats spend the winter?

A. Within a hollow tree, cave or protected place.

Q. Do bats move around during the winter?

A. No! They sleep and awaken only when insects become active in the spring.

Q. What bat is found all over Ontario including the far north?

A. Little Brown Bat.

Q. Do bats fly fast?

A. Yes. Swifts and swallows are the only birds which fly as fast and can turn with such ease as bats.

Q. How many young do bats have?

A. One.

Q. What does the mother bat do with her baby while seeking food?

A. She often takes it with her and during the flight it clings to her neck.

Q. What does a mother bat do with her baby if she does not want to take it on a flight in search of food?

A. She hangs it on a twig by the little hooks attached to its small feet which project from the wings and are used by all bats when resting.

Q. How do bats collect their food?

A. Like swifts they fly with the mouth open.

Q. What other method of capturing insects do bats have that no bird has?

A. They double up their wings like an apron and scoop up insects and reach down to eat them.

—Reprinted from The Young Naturalist, published by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists.

How to Estimate Height of a Tree

How tall is a certain tree?

That is a question that frequently baffles observers looking at one of the giants of the forest.

Actually there is a very simple method of estimating the correct figure. It is an old Indian one.

It consists in walking away until you reach a point where you can bend over and see the tip of the tree from this position. You then walk from where you are to the base of the tree, counting off one foot for every step taken. The total footage will be the approximate height of the tree.

Speaking of Skunks

Skunks don't have to be very old to be equipped with their peculiar defence mechanism. A Parry Sound resident was forced to stop to allow a mother skunk and nine babies to cross the road and was so captivated by the little fellows that he got out of his car and captured two to take home. Lands and Forests Dept. officers reported: "Before arriving home he knew he had done the wrong thing. He was unable to rectify the situation because the little fellows were under the car seat and he couldn't remove them without almost tearing the car apart.

"Persons who admire small wild animals should remember that he who carries small skunks in his car rides alone."

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Sermons Under The Sun

By Dr. Paul Little

Dedication services in a rural church, for a new organ, included a concert by a famous organist from the city. The instrument was of the old type, propelled by means of hand bellows.

The church was filled to capacity, and the organist was giving an excellent recital. He was quite proud of himself as he walked backstage for a few moments during the intermission. There he encountered the old organ pumper, strolling around to ease his weary arms.

"We're giving a fine concert," remarked the old man. The proud organist pretended not to have heard it.

"I say," the old man ventured again, "we are giving them a fine musicale."

The organist drew himself up haughtily. "We?" he exclaimed, "We —a fine concert? I beg your pardon— I am the performer!" And whirling on his heels he returned to the console to give the rest of his programme.

The first number in the second part was written for the full organ. The performer pulled out the necessary stops, opened the Swell and Crescendo pedals to their limit, paused dramatically until the audience had become breathlessly silent, and with a great flourish brought his hands down on the keys. Not a sound ensued! The audience tittered.

Greatly flustered, the performer pulled out another stop, then another, jiggled one here and another there, again made his dramatic pause, and again brought his hands down on the keys. Not even a sigh came from the mighty pipes. And the audience broke into an unrestrained laughter.

The organist's suspicions were aroused. Quietly he slipped from his bench and made his way to the post of the organ pumper. He found the old fellow tilted back on his chair, smoking his pipe.

The organist grasped the old man's horny hand. "You were right, my friend. We did give them a fine concert, didn't we? Now give us some more wind and we will do even better on the second part of the programme."

And together they did.

—●

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continued from page 33

Reluctantly we deserted him to his "holiday". How the week dragged! Every time it rained, we visioned the deluge pouring into his tent, through the holes in the sides. We wondered if the poison ivy had claimed him for its own, yet. We hoped his ankle remained swollen so that he would not try swimming in that murky lagoon.

At last the glorious day of his homecoming arrived. My husband went personally to the Camp, trusting that he might locate some of the boy's equipment. Actually, it was easily found. The counsellor, it seemed, had merely brought his enthusiasm to Camp. Everything else he borrowed from the boys.

Home at last! First, out of those dirty clothes and into a warm tub. I dropped his hard, time stiffened socks down the laundry chute and wasn't too surprised at the hollow "clunk" that they made as they hit the basket. Had he changed his underwear even once? Could this be the same jersey he started for camp in, ten days ago?

A bath brush and plenty of good soap can do wonders and soon our son was recognizable. Ignoring his pyjamas, he began hunting for underwear, socks, etc. "Dear, you are going to bed," I reminded him. "Sure, sure," he replied, pulling on a jersey, "but our counsellors always had us sleep in our clothes. It was faster in the morning."

Nine years have passed, and searching about in our assorted memories of camping life, I questioned him the other day. "Bun, can you think of anything, anything at all, that was constructive about that camping holiday you took, when you were eight?"

A wide grin appeared on his face. "Just tell them that I learned to adjust to disaster."

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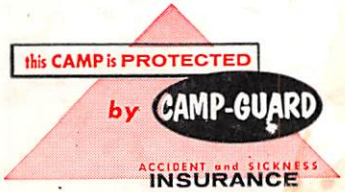

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